

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present Application. Claims 7-11 are canceled and claims 8-20 are added with this Amendment.

The Specification has been amended to provide a more descriptive title as requested by the Examiner. The Specification has also been amended to correct a clear typographical error. The Specification, such as at page 3, lines 10-11 and 14-15, provided 2 different definitions of R^3 . In one case, R^3 was attached to a nitrogen and was part of an amino group (NR^3R^4), in the other case it was attached to germanium. One skilled in the art reading the Specification would understand that 2 different groups were intended. Accordingly, the Specification has been amended to replace the R^3 attached to the nitrogen with " R^6 " to avoid any confusion. Thus, the amino group is now defined as NR^4R^6 . No new matter is added with this amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to replace " NR^3R^4 " with " NR^4R^6 " as discussed above and to specify that $d' = 1-4$. Support for this amendment is found in the Specification at various locations, such as at page 6, lines 16-24, page 8, line 29 to page 9, line 6, and by Example 3, such as Samples F, G, S and E which illustrate $d' = 1, 2, 3$ and 4 , respectively. When $d' = 1-4$, a' and b' must have the numerical range of $0-3$, since $a' + b' + c' + d' = 4$.

Support for new claim 12 is found in original claim 1 and in the Specification at page 7, lines 9-10 and in Example 3 which clearly illustrates $GeCl_4$, $GeBr_4$ and GeI_4 as tetrahalogermanes (Samples A-I). New claim 13 is supported by the Specification as discussed for claim 1. Support for claim 14 is found in Specification, *inter alia*, in Example 3, such as Samples R, S and L which clearly illustrate $a = 1, 2$, and 3 , respectively. New claim 15 finds support in the Specification at page 8, lines 5-28. Newly added claim 16 is supported by the original claim 1 and by the Specification at various locations such as page 8, line 29 to page 9, line 18, and in Example 3, where Samples A-BB clearly support that at least one of a' , c' and d' is not 0 . Support for new claims 17 and 18 is found at page 8, line 29 to page 9, line 18, of the Specification. New claim 19 is supported by Example 3 of the Specification, such as by Samples A and F. New claim 20 is supported by the Specification at page 9, lines 20-21. No new matter is added with this Amendment.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to point out particularly and claim distinctly the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants submit that this rejection is mooted by the present amendment and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 6 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mukai (US 5,120,394). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Mukai patent only discloses the combination of germane (GeH_4) and germanium tetrafluoride (GeF_4). Such a combination is not included in Applicants' claims. In particular, Applicants' claim 1 requires that at least one R^3 group be present in the second germanium compound, claim 12 requires that the first germanium compound be $GeCl_4$, $GeBr_4$ or GeI_4 if it is a tetrahalogermanium compound with each X^1 being the same, and claim 16 requires that at least one of a' , c' and d' not be 0. Therefore, the Mukai patent does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Mukai patent teaches only a combination of GeH_4 and GeF_4 . Nothing in this patent teaches or suggests any other germanium compounds. Even if one skilled in the art did select another germanium compound, there is nothing in the Mukai patent that would lead one skilled in the art to expect such other germanium compound would work.

Applicants wish to point out that claim 6 requires that $d' = 2-3$, i.e. there must be 2-3 R^3 groups. As R^3 does not represent H, the Mukai patent does not anticipate this claim.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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